

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-51 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 47 are amended. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims at least in light of the following remarks.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner LaForgia in the December 6 personal interview. Applicants incorporate a separate record of the substance of the interview into the following remarks. Specifically, claims 1 and 51 are amended as proposed during the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-51 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,987,134 to Shin et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,297,278 to Wang. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Neither Shin nor Wang discloses, teaches, or suggests that, "in spite of any erasing command issued, the data within the storage medium is preserved, as recited in claims 1 and 47. The Office Action correctly recognizes that Shin fails to disclose, teach, or suggest such a feature (see item 10, page 6 of the Office Action). However, as discussed during the personal interview, Wang fails to make up for this deficiency of Shin.

In particular, Wang discloses that under certain circumstances data in the storage medium is erased upon the issuance of an erase command (Fig. 3, step 72). Thus, according to Wang, the data in the storage medium is not preserved in spite of any erasing command issued. As a result, Wang fails to disclose, teach, or suggest, that, "in spite of any erasing command issued, the data within the storage medium is preserved."

Because neither Shin nor Wang discloses, teaches, or suggests that, "in spite of any erasing command issued, the data within the storage medium is preserved," claims 1 and 47 are patentable over the combination of Shin and Wang. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-46 and 48-51 are patentable for at least the reasons that claims 1 and 47

are patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicants earnestly solicit favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-51.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 27, 2005

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